

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7 have been amended herein. Claim 8 has been added herein. Claim 3 has been canceled herein without prejudice. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 3 and 7 subject to being amended to independent form. All the limitations in claim 3 have been added to independent claim 1. Therefore, claims 1-2, and 4-7 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant believes that new claim 8 is also in condition for allowance.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-2 AND 4-6 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,234,031 ("Suga"). Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable for at least the following reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Regarding claims 1-2, and 4-7, these claims are believed to be in condition for allowance since the limitations of claim 3 which has been indicated as allowable are now recited in independent claim 1.

Regarding new claim 8, this claim corresponds to original claim 4. Thus, no new matter has been introduced by the addition of claim 8.

Claim 8 specifically requires that "the row lines and the column lines are formed so as to extend in the higher-thermal-shrinkage direction when a film stress caused by the row lines or the column lines is a tensile stress," and that "the row lines and the column lines are formed so as to extend in the lower-thermal-shrinkage direction when the film stress is a compressive stress." According to one exemplary embodiment of the invention defined in claim 8, such an embodiment can reduce the possibility of line disconnection due to mechanical or physical stress. See, for example, page 12, line 23 - page 13, line 13 of the present specification.

By contrast, the Suga patent suggests use of the gaps 118 as shown in Fig. 9. The Suga patent describes the gaps 118 which reduce the limitation to the deformation in the horizontal direction. See, e.g., Suga, column 13, lines 21-30. The Examiner cited column 12, lines 53-67;

and column 13, lines 9-38 of Suga as allegedly disclosing the limitations of original claim 4. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The above-identified portions of Suga do not suggest use of row and column lines which are formed to extend in the higher-thermal-shrinkage direction or in the lower-thermal-shrinkage direction depending on the film stress (e.g., a tensile stress and a compressive stress). Nor does the entire portions of Suga suggest the differences between the higher-thermal-shrinkage direction and in the lower-thermal-shrinkage direction in general. In fact, the Suga patent contains none of the terms, "thermal," "shrink," and "stress," which are key words of the invention of claim 8. It is respectfully submitted that the cited portions of Suga, and the rest of the portions of Suga have nothing to do with the specific configuration capable of extending in the higher-thermal-shrinkage direction or in the lower-thermal-shrinkage direction depending on the film stress as claimed.

In view of the foregoing, Suga cannot be said to anticipate the invention of claim 8. Therefore, claim 8 is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner has any continuing concerns about patentability of the claimed invention, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200, ext 245.

Respectfully submitted,
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Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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